Economic Environment

U.S. Economic Confidence at Highest Point Since 2000
Americans’ confidence in the U.S. economy is higher than at any point in about two decades. The latest figure from Gallup’s Economic Confidence Index is +40, the highest reading recorded since +44 in October 2000.

Americans’ buoyant confidence in the economy in Gallup's latest poll, conducted Jan. 2-15, likely reflects the U.S. unemployment rate’s continued stay at a 50-year low. Meanwhile, the Dow Jones Industrial Average continues to reach record highs -- and flirts with reaching the 30,000 marker. 

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Global Trends - Wine Industry Key Elements

Why California is banning chlorpyrifos, a widely-used pesticide: 5 questions answered
California, the top U.S. food-producing state, is ending use of chlorpyrifos, a pesticide associated with neurodevelopmental problems and impaired brain function in children.

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Is the consumer-goods industry ready for the new world of work?
The skills that made consumer-goods companies successful in the past won’t be good enough for the future. Companies need to start preparing for skill shifts now.

The next decade or two will likely bring about the biggest disruption to work and employment since the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century. In that era, machines replaced more than half of workers in some sectors during a span of only about 30 years. This time around, the disruption could lead to even more dramatic consequences: according to research from the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI), automation and artificial intelligence (AI) could displace between 400 million and 800 million people worldwide by 2030. At the same time, new jobs will be created, but these jobs will require skills that will be in short supply.
Italian police uncover major wine fraud
Italian police have uncovered a wine fraud ring, responsible for faking more than a million litres of wine.
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